

## CLAIMS

I claim:

1. An encoding system for adding data to encoded content material, the encoded content material having defined characteristics, comprising:

5 a preprocessor that is configured to encode the data to form encoded data that conforms to the defined characteristics of the encoded content material, and

a combiner that is configured to combine the encoded content material and the encoded data to form a combined encoded output that conforms to the defined characteristics of the encoded content material.

10 2. The encoding system of claim 1, further comprising:

a postprocessor that is configured to process an input that is consistent with the defined characteristics of the encoded content material, and wherein

the combined encoded output is provided as the input to the postprocessor.

15 3. The encoding system of claim 2, wherein

the postprocessor includes a watermarking system.

4. The encoding system of claim 3, wherein

20 the watermarking system is configured to provide at least one of: a fragile watermark and a robust watermark, based on the combined encoded output.

5. The encoding system of claim 1, wherein

the data comprises an analog noise signal, and

25 the preprocessor is configured to receive the analog noise signal and to produce therefrom the encoded data as a digital encoding.

6. The encoding system of claim 5, wherein

the analog noise signal is at least one of: an audio noise and a visual noise.

7. The encoding system of claim 1, wherein

5 the data comprises a digital signal, and

the preprocessor is configured to receive the digital signal, and includes:

a modulator that converts the digital signal to an analog signal, and

an encoder that processes the analog signal to form the encoded data as a digital  
encoding.

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8. The encoding system of claim 7, wherein

the encoder is substantially equivalent to a device that provides the encoded content  
material having the defined characteristics.

9. The encoding system of claim 8, wherein

the encoder comprises at least one of: a CD encoder and a DVD encoder.

10. The encoding system of claim 1, wherein

the combiner is configured to concatenate the encoded content material and the encoded  
data to form the combined encoded output.

11. The encoding system of claim 1, wherein

the encoding system is configured to provide the data, based on a random process.

12. An encoding method for adding data to encoded content material, the encoded content material having defined characteristics, comprising:

preprocessing the data to form encoded data that conforms to the defined characteristics of the encoded content material, and

5 combining the encoded content material and the encoded data to form a combined encoded output that conforms to the defined characteristics of the encoded content material.

13. The encoding method of claim 12, further comprising

10 postprocessing the combined encoded output via a process that is compatible with the defined characteristics of the encoded content material.

14. The encoding method of claim 13, wherein

the postprocessing includes watermarking the combined encoded output.

15. The encoding method of claim 14, wherein

the watermarking provides at least one of: a fragile watermark and a robust watermark, based on the combined encoded output.

16. The encoding method of claim 12, wherein

the data comprises an analog noise signal, and

20 the preprocessing includes receiving the analog noise signal and producing therefrom the encoded data as a digital encoding.

17. The encoding method of claim 16, wherein

25 the analog noise signal is at least one of: an audio noise and a visual noise.

18. The encoding method of claim 12, wherein  
the data comprises a digital signal, and  
the preprocessing includes receiving the digital signal, and includes:  
modulating the digital signal to form an analog signal, and  
5 encoding the analog signal to form the encoded data as a digital encoding.

19. The encoding method of claim 18, wherein  
the encoding is substantially equivalent to an encoding process that provides the encoded  
content material having the defined characteristics.

20. The encoding method of claim 19, wherein  
the encoding process corresponds to at least one of: a CD encoding process and a DVD  
encoding process.

21. The encoding method of claim 12, wherein  
the combining includes concatenating the encoded content material and the encoded data  
to form the combined encoded output.

22. The encoding method of claim 12, further including  
generating the data based on a random process.